

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed July 11, 2008, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are now pending, with claims 1, 6, and 7 being independent claims. Claims 4 and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the originally-filed disclosure, including, for example, at paragraphs 0030 and 0032 of the specification. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the amendments do not include new matter.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Elston et al. (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0143655). Claims 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elston et al. in view of Official Notice.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, and submit that the invention recited in the claims is patentably defined over Elston et al. and the Official Notice taken in the Office Action for at least the reasons set forth in the Request for Reconsideration filed October 10, 2008, which are hereby incorporated by reference. Applicants further submit the amendments to independent claims 1 and 7 herein even further clarify distinctions between the invention recited therein and the combination of Elston et al. and the Official Notice taken in the Office Action.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are allowable over the references of record, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections, and passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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